

EDITORIALS.

IN THE admirable address on Botanical opportunity delivered by Dr. Trelease before the Botanical Society of America, already published in this journal, and also separately distributed, occurs a paragraph on equipment of laboratories for physiological botany which is capable of misapplication. Owing to the expensiveness of such an equipment and the attention required to keep it in order, the suggestion is made that it should be bought in moderation; probably a superfluous suggestion, if one may judge by the condition of American laboratories at the present time. The closing sentence of the paragraph (ante, page 201), however, contains the only point to which exception need be taken. It embodies the old and pernicious idea, very prevalent when laboratories were a novelty, that the pupil, the student, will get the most from his study when he makes for himself the implements and devices needed in his work. The "history of the most successful physiological laboratories," when they are old enough to have passed out of their formative stage, will undoubtedly be that of all the other laboratory sciences. At first instruments are made by the worker, after a time expensive and more or less unsatisfactory instruments are bought, finally good instruments at a reasonable price are obtainable and preferred. "Simple apparatus designed to meet the precise needs of the problem" is a matter of evolution, and at the present day the problem in physiology is often very crudely worked for want of apparatus that has had thought expended upon it, and become the product of the highest mechanical skill.

IT WILL BE noticed from Professor MacDougal's "open letter" in this number that he accepts, at the suggestion of the GAZETTE, the responsible duty of organizing the commission which shall visit various regions of the American tropics with a view to select a suitable site for a botanical laboratory. The letter also shows that substantial progress has been made, and that the inspection of sites by the commission is assured. The subsequent establishment of the station seems

assured by the general sentiment in favor of it. The opportunities offered to American botanists by a conveniently situated tropical laboratory can hardly be overestimated, and the present time seems to be peculiarly appropriate in which to begin the movement. So many things must be considered in this selection that it will be difficult to decide among numerous "favorite sites," but the claims of all should be presented and investigated. The commission must of necessity maintain a judicial mind and express no opinion until its return, but the *GAZETTE* would suggest that all who have special knowledge of any place which seems to them to be suitable for this purpose should communicate directly with Mr. MacDougal. The assured cooperation of British botanists is a further cause for congratulation. With the general favorable sentiment among botanists, developed by the correspondence of Mr. MacDougal, and with the joint presence of American and British botanists at one or both of the association meetings next summer, it would seem that no small obstacle should stand in the way of seizing the present opportunity.

THE PRESENT number of the *GAZETTE* announces the names of nine foreign associate editors, representing seven European countries and Japan. The names of these botanists are well known in America, and their cordial acceptance of this responsibility promises well for more intimate relations between the botanists of the two hemispheres. It is confidently expected that this association will result in a larger recognition of American work, the lack of which has been pointed out more than once in this journal. These foreign associates are welcomed, not only by the editors of the *GAZETTE*, but also by American botanists, whom they have put under obligation by offering their assistance in the development of an American journal, and their influence in securing for it the widest possible foreign audience. Their contributions will largely take the form of reviews, notes of current work, and botanical news, so that American botanists will be brought into more immediate contact with foreign botanical activity; while occasional papers dealing with American material will aid in our own problems. It has been the purpose of the editors to secure as associates not only representatives from different countries, but also from different fields of work, that the journal may represent botanical science in its broadest scope.

IT IS NEEDLESS to explain to American botanists the positions and special fields of our foreign associates, as their names are very familiar to all readers of current botanical literature. The list of names and official positions is as follows: PROFESSOR DR. ADOLF ENGLER, Director of the Royal Botanic Garden and Museum, and Professor of Botany in the University of Berlin; DR. FRITZ NOLL, Privatdocent in Plant Physiology in the University of Bonn; DR. H. MARSHALL WARD, F.R.S., F.L.S., Director of the Botanic Garden, and Professor of Botany in the University of Cambridge; DR. LEON GUIGNARD, Professor of Botany at l'École supérieure de Pharmacie, Paris; CASIMIR DE CANDOLLE, Geneva, Switzerland; PROFESSOR DR. JOANNES BAPTISTA DE TONI, Professor of Botany in the Royal University of Padua; DR. EUGEN WARMING, Director of the Botanic Garden, and Professor of Botany in the University of Copenhagen; DR. VEIT BRECHER WITTROCK, Director of the Botanical State-Museum, and of the Botanic Garden and Horticultural School of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Stockholm; DR. JINZŌ MATSUMURA, Director of the Botanic Garden, and Professor of Botany in the Science College of the Imperial University, Tōkyō, Japan.